

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 FBIE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /047 W  
----- 051050

P 041535Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8838

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC PINS PFOR PORS CI

SUBJECT: SHOOTING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

REF: SANTIAGO 4034

1. SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING SHOOTING AT RESIDENCE INDICATES INCIDENT WAS MORE LIKELY MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION THAN SERIOUS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. GOC IS PERSUADED THAT DRIVER OF SECOND VEHICLE IS INNOCENT; HE HAS BEEN RELEASED. CHARGE DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN SOLICITING CURRENT INFORMATION ON PROGRESS OF GOC INVESTIGATION. US PERSONNEL IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF SANTIAGO HEARD WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE SHOTS DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS MAY 1. WE HAVE ALERTED PERSONNEL TO INCIDENT AND URGED PARTICULAR CAUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. WE CONTINUE TO RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON IDENTITY OF PERPETRATORS OF SHOOTING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. EMBASSY LOCAL GUARD AND CARABINERO BELIEVE ASSAILANTS FIRED THREE ROUNDS. SECURITY FORCES BELIEVE AT LEAST ONE OF THE WEAPONS WAS .22 CALIBER RIFLE. GOC HAS ASSIGNED SECOND CARABINERO TO DETAIL GUARDING RESIDENCE.

3. DURING MEETING ON OTHER MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL MAY 3, CHARGE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS OUR NEED FOR COMPLETE  
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AND TIMELY INFORMATION OF GOC INVESTIGATION OF ANY ATTACK

ON OUR PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATIONS. CARVAJAL WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED, IMMEDIATELY LEFT ROOM TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALL AND IN FEW MINUTES RETURNED WITH INFORMATION THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD RELEASED DRIVER OF SECOND CAR. HE ADDED THAT GOC BELIEVED ATTACK MORE OF DARING DEMONSTRATION PERHAPS DESIGNED FOR PUBLICITY RATHER THAN SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO KILL GUARDS.

4. VARIOUS US PERSONNEL HAVE REPORTED HEARING WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SHOTS DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 29/30 AND MAY 1. SO FAR WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION (NONE APPEARS TO BE IDENTICAL WITH SHOOTING AT RESIDENCE). ONE PERSON STAYING IN CARRERA HOTEL HEARD SHOTS ABOUT 1:30 A.M., APRIL 30; ANOTHER LIVING IN SUBURBS HEARD THREE SHOTS DURING EARLY MORNING MAY 1. AT 3:15 AM PERSON ON FOOT FIRED ONE SHOT AT HOUSE OF SON OF JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL MENDOZA; ASSAILANT FLED, NO ONE INJURED.

5. SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MET MAY 3. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO INFORM ALL US PERSONNEL OF INCIDENT, RECOMMEND INCREASED VIGILANCE, RANDOM TRAVEL AND ROUTE VARIATION. EMBASSY'S ROVING PATROL WILL BE EXPANDED AND EXTENDED TO CURFEW HOURS. EMBASSY GUARDS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED AND REMINDED TO BE PARTICULARLY ALERT.

6. COMMENT: AS STATED REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE BASIC SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS GOOD. CONFIRMATION THAT SECOND VEHICLE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN OPERATION IS FURTHER INDICATION THAT ATTACK WAS AMATEURISH. AMATEURS FIRING WEAPONS, HOWEVER, ARE ALSO A SERIOUS MATTER.  
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